

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Activities of Victims of Agrarian Reform in North Korea

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1. As a result of the North Korean land reforms of 1946, which confiscated and re-distributed private holdings over three hectares, many landlords who were dispossessed fled to the Republic of Korea. Many landlords who remained in the north were impoverished and even imprisoned. There was no consistent regulation of land confiscations, and the committees handling the matter were often made up of indigent and unemployed persons or poor tenant farmers who distributed land arbitrarily in favor of their own members and penalized all landlords regardless of their deserts.
2. When the North Korean forces retreated in September, many of the expelled landlords joined the advancing UN forces or followed them north to their former holdings with the purpose of regaining their confiscated lands. In revenge for the unfair and severe treatment to which they had been subjected under the Communist regime, they not only regained their property but committed outrages on some of the executives of the agrarian reform who did not retreat with their armies.

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